

File No.: R-11017/37 (VII) 2025-OMB/CRCS
Office of Cooperative Ombudsman
Ministry of Cooperation
Government of India

9th Floor, Tower-E, World Trade Centre,
Nauroji Nagar, Delhi-110029
Dated: 05th May 2025

Hearing in the matter of Shri P. Rajagopal Menon, Shri P. Chandrasekharan, Smt. A.S. Geetha, Shri Chellakudam Sanikutty Chummar, Smt. Lilly Chummar, Smt. Philomina Varghese and others Vs. Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society Ltd., Coimbatore before the Cooperative Ombudsman

Shri P. Rajagopal Menon, Shri P. Chandrasekharan,
Smt. A.S. Geetha, Shri Chellakudam Sanikutty
Chummar, Smt. Lilly Chummar, Smt. Philomina
Varghese and Others
(Hereinafter referred to as Complainants)

Complainants

Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society
Ltd., Coimbatore
(Herein after referred to as Respondent)

Respondent

ORDER

1. Shri P. Rajagopal Menon in his complaint against Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society Ltd., Coimbatore has stated that he has invested Rs.5.25 Lakh in 8 Fixed Deposits with the Society vide Certificates No. CA10400003895, CA10400003916, CA10400003994, CA10400003995, CA10400001936, CA10400001933, CA10400001934 and CA10400001935. Upon maturity of these FDRs between 11th November 2024 and 03rd January 2025, he vide his application dated 04th January 2025 requested the Society to refund his deposits.
2. Shri P. Chandrasekharan in his complaint against Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society Ltd., Coimbatore has stated that he has invested Rs.15.00 Lakh in 4 Fixed Deposits with the Society vide Certificate No. CA10200006003, CA10200006132, CA10200006352 and CA10200005973. Upon maturity of these FDRs in October-November 2024, he vide his application dated 08th December 2024 requested the Society to refund his deposits.

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3. Smt. A.S. Geetha in her complaint against Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society Ltd., Coimbatore has stated that she has invested Rs.15.00 Lakh in 4 Fixed Deposits with the Society vide Certificate No.CA10200005972, CA10200006131, CA10200006151 and CA10200005994. Upon maturity of these FDRs in October-November 2024, she vide her application dated 08th December 2024, requested the Society to refund her deposits.
4. Shri Chellakudam Sanikutty Chummar in his complaint against Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society Ltd., Coimbatore has stated that he has invested Rs.9.00 Lakh in 02 Fixed Deposits with the Society vide Certificates No. CA10200005960 and CA10200006498. Upon maturity of these fixed deposits in October 2024 and January 2025 respectively, he made various applications; latest dated 14th January 2025, requesting the Society to refund his deposits. The Society issued him two cheques, one dated 11th November 2024 for Rs.6.00 Lakh and another dated 21st April 2025 for Rs.3.00 Lakh towards repayment of his deposits. The cheque for Rs.6.00 Lakh was returned unpaid by the bank on 07th February 2025 with reason, 'fund insufficient'. Cheque dated 21st April 2025 for Rs.3.00 Lakh was also not honoured.
5. Smt. Lilly Chummar in her complaint against Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society Ltd., Coimbatore has stated that she has invested Rs.22.00 Lakh in 04 Fixed Deposits with the Society vide Certificates No. CA10200005958, CA10200005959, CA10200006496 and CA10200006497. Upon maturity, she vide her application, latest dated 14th January 2025 requested the Society to refund her deposits. The Society gave her two cheques, one of Rs.12.00 Lakh dated 11th November 2024 and another of Rs.10.00 Lakh dated 21st April 2025 towards repayment of her deposits. The cheque of Rs.12.00 Lakh was returned unpaid by the bank on 07th February 2025 with reason, 'fund insufficient'. Cheque dated 21st April 2025 for Rs.10.00 Lakh was also not honoured.
6. Smt. Philomina Varghese in her complaint against Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society Ltd., Coimbatore has stated that she has invested an amount of Rs.58.52 Lakh in 12 Fixed Deposits with the Society vide Certificates No. CA10200005961, CA10200005968, CA10200005970, CA 10200005971, CA 10200006484, CA10200006485, CA 10200006486, CA 10200006487, CA 10200006533, CA 10200006289, CA 10200006528 and CA10200006529. She requested the Society vide her applications, latest dated 14th January 2025 to refund her matured deposits amounting to Rs.47.08 Lakh. The Society issued her three cheques, one dated 11th November 2024 for Rs.22.00 Lakh, second dated 10th March 2025 for Rs.5.08 Lakh and third dated 15th April 2025 for Rs.20.00 Lakh towards repayment of her deposits. The cheque for Rs.22.00 Lakh was returned



unpaid by the bank on 07th February 2025 with reason, 'fund insufficient'. Cheque dated 10th March 2025 for Rs.5.08 Lakh and cheque dated 15th April 2025 for Rs.20.00 Lakh were also not honoured.

7. Upon receipt of complaints, notices were issued on 19th, 24th & 27 March 2025 by the office of the Cooperative Ombudsman to the Society seeking their response.
8. Most of the notices sent to the Society by post for their response were returned undelivered with remarks 'No such addressee' on the envelopes.
9. Following the same, complainants and respondent were summoned for a hearing on 25th April 2025 through video conferencing. Mails sent to the Society bounced back and there was no response to the phone calls.
10. All six complainants attended the hearing along with Shri Shibu MV, authorised representative of Shri Chellakudam Sanikutty Chummar, Smt. Lilly Chummar and Smt. Philomina Varghese. There was no representation from the respondent Society.
11. During the hearing, complainants reiterated their problems largely in line with their complaints and requested that their funds should be released by the Society immediately. They also stated that the Society is trying to sell its properties and other assets.
12. On perusal of the facts and available record, following aspects emerge: -
 - a) Complainants had invested their funds in Fixed Deposits with Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society Ltd., Coimbatore at their Thrissur branch as per details mentioned in foregoing paragraphs.
 - b) Upon maturity of their fixed deposits, complainants requested the Society to refund their deposits.
 - c) The Society neither refunded the money to the complainants nor did it give any reply. In some of the cases, it issued cheques to the depositors, which were not honoured.



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- d) Complainants filed their complaints before the Cooperative Ombudsman against Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Credit Society Ltd.
 - e) Notices dated 19th, 24th & 27th March 2025 were issued by the office of Cooperative Ombudsman to the respondent Society seeking their response to the complaints.
 - f) No response has been forthcoming from the Society in any of the notices issued to them by this office. Most of the notices sent by post were returned undelivered with remarks 'No such addressee' on the envelopes
 - g) A hearing was conducted through video conferencing on 25th April 2025. All the complainants attended the hearing. There was no representation from the respondent Society. Mails sent to the Society regarding this hearing bounced back and there was no response to the phone calls.
 - h) During hearing, complainants reiterated their grievance and requested for early refund of their deposits. Complainants also stated that the Society is trying to dispose off its properties & other assets.
 - i) There are a number of complaints from the members of this Society regarding non refund of their deposits. Management of the Society is not replying to requests of the members for refund of their deposits and is also not responding to the notices issued. It seems that the Society has ceased to function as per cooperative principles and therefore, all options available under MSCS Act, 2002 and Rules thereunder need to be explored.
13. After due consideration of the documents submitted, representation made and the relevant provisions of law, the matter is hereby disposed off with following directions:
- (i) Though management of Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Cooperative Society Ltd., Coimbatore appears to have deliberately become incommunicado or are absconding, they are hereby directed, in their own interest, to pay the amount of deposits due & claimed by the complainants against their respective deposits along with up-to-date interest thereon within 15 days from the date of issue of this Order.



- (ii) The Society is further directed that in respect of all other complaints received/being received in this office as also claims being filed with the Society, to pay the members their claims along with up-to-date interest thereon within 15 days from the date of complaints/claims received by them.
- (iii) Compliance report to be submitted by the Society to this office.




(Alok Agarwal)
Cooperative Ombudsman

To,

1. Shri P. Rajagopal Menon R/o Karuvannur Padinjarettu (H), Mammiyoor, Guruvayoor P.O., Thrissur, Kerala- 680 101
2. Shri P. Chandrasekharan, Saritha, Harisri Nagar, Thrikumarakudam, Thrissur, Kerala- 680 003
3. Smt. A. S. Geetha , Saritha, Harisri Nagar, Thrikumarakudam, Thrissur, Kerala- 680 003
4. Shri Chellakudam Sanikutty Chummar, Chellakudam House, Neithukudy Road, Mala P.O., Thrissur, Kerala- 680 732
5. Smt. Lilly Chummar, Chellakudam House, Neithukudy Road, Mala P.O., Thrissur, Kerala- 680 732
6. Smt. Philomina VargheseMundakkal House, Kannukadan Moola, Kottanallore P.O., Thrissur, Kerala - 680 662
7. Chairman, Viswadeepthi Multi State Agri Coop. Society Ltd., GRAND CAG Central, Nava India, Avinasi Road, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu-641 004